

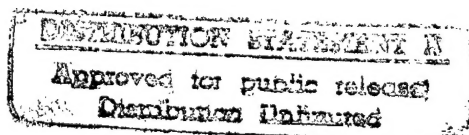
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CENSUS IN NORTH VIETNAM

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## FOREWORD

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CENSUS IN NORTH VIETNAM

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I. PREMIER'S DECREE ON 1960 CENSUS IN NORTH VIETNAM

Nhan Dan  
[The People]  
No 2134, 20 January 1960, Hanoi  
Page 4  
Vietnamese

Unsigned article

This population census decree aims at collecting the most fundamental and accurate data on the population situation of North Vietnam to lay the foundation for all plans and public administration policies.

The population situation varies constantly in a complex pattern. If the census is to be conducted with the highest degree of accuracy, without overlapping and oversight, certain regulations must be set forth to insure uniformity of action among different regions of North Vietnam. The requirements of the uniform census determined in this decree must be keenly understood and correctly executed by census takers at all levels and in all regions.

All persons who have the duty to prepare the census report should understand the meaning and purpose of the operation as well as the regulations concerning them and their households, so that accuracy is attained.

Article 1. Scope, objective and organization of the population census operation.

1. All Vietnamese citizens and foreigners residing in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam must register themselves in compliance with this decree. Administrative committees at all levels have the responsibility of carrying out the census operation with the support of the census committees.

2. The armed forces in standing status, the police forces in active status, irrespective of their stations, together with other civilians residing within the military and police jurisdiction, shall be censused by the defense and police ministries.

3. All diplomatic and consular personnel, all persons engaged in other public missions abroad, and all students, trainees of the Vietnamese Democratic Republic, together with other Vietnam citizens now residing overseas, shall be registered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 2. Unit of census

1. The household is the unit of population census.

A household is generally defined as a group of persons, irrespective of number, living together in one residence and having a household chief. The person who lives by himself and claims to be chief of the household also forms a household.

A combined household is defined as a unit comprising many persons living together under the organization and administration of the Government or Party.

2. Each household shall register on a separate form.

Article 3. Starting time.

The starting time of the census operation is set at zero hour of 1 March 1960 or zero hour of 4 February of the year Canh-ty (lunar calendar).

Beginning on 1 March 1960, each locality shall start taking the census at the determined starting time in accordance with the situation concerning permanent residents in the locality.

The deceased and the persons officially moving out of the locality prior to the starting time shall not be registered.

The new-born and the persons who have just officially moved into the locality after the starting time shall not be registered.

Article 4. Persons to be censused

In the entire North Vietnam, all permanent residents shall be censused. Each person can be registered at only one locality which is the residence locality.

Article 5. Principal rules to determine the permanent resident status.

1. With the exception of all military personnel and police agents who shall be registered respectively by the defense Ministry and Police Ministry pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Article 1 above, all persons having fixed and permanent residences in a locality shall register themselves in the same locality.

2. Those who have left their previous residences prior to the starting time bearing an official certificate of permanent displacement, shall be registered in their new localities.

3. Those who have left their previous residences prior to the starting time but did not receive certificates of permanent displacement, or did not know exactly their new destinations, shall use the starting time to calculate the duration of displacement; if the duration is less than six months, they shall register themselves in their previous localities; if the duration exceeds six months, they shall register themselves at the new localities.

4. Those who have no fixed residence shall, within the census period, register themselves in the localities where they shall be present; certificates will be issued to them to attest their registration.

Article 6. Other categories of people to be censused

1. The persons who have moved to other localities for a public mission shall be registered as permanent residents of their previous localities.

2. The new-born in hospitals shall be registered in their mothers' localities. Patients whose hospitalization is less than six months shall be registered as permanent residents of the localities where they lived prior to the entry into hospitals.

3. The patients who live in sanatoriums, persons detained in reform camps, in prisons, or temporarily arrested, shall be registered in the localities where they are administered or detained.

4. The official cadres or public servants waiting for their mission at certain localities shall be registered by the organs administering them.

5. The persons who have several residences and cannot determine the permanent one, shall register themselves as permanent residents where they have filed a civil-status report, where they have paid agricultural taxes, or where they have voted in the election of an administrative committee.

6. The persons who are living on the support of others (who do not file civil-status report, who do not pay agricultural taxes, or who do not vote in the election of an administrative committee at a fixed locality) shall be registered, within the census period, at the household where they are being supported.

Article 7. Census of the people engaged in fluvial and maritime occupations.

1. The persons who make a fluvial or maritime living but have residence on land, shall be registered in the localities on land where they reside; if they do not have residence on land and dwell permanently in boats or floating houses, they shall register themselves as permanent residents of the pier zone where their boats and floating houses anchor.

2. The persons who work on public or private commercial ships and have residence on land, shall be registered as permanent residents of the locality on land where they reside; if they do not have residence on land, they shall be registered as permanent residents at the original ports of the ships.

3. The persons who make a fluvial or maritime living and cannot determine their permanent residences, shall be registered, within the census period, at the pier zone where they lay anchor; they then will be issued certificates of registration.

Article 8. Census of ambulatory workers shall be registered at the localities where they are residing.

Article 9. The Vietnam citizens and foreigners living together in a household shall be registered at the same household.

Article 10. Registration shall be made on forms designed by the Central Statistics Board and issued by the Office of the Premier. For the regions of the minority ethnic groups where special characters (Chinese, Thai) are used, registration forms will be printed in those characters along the general design.

Article 11. The administrative committees at all levels have the responsibility of carrying out this decree with the support of the census committees.

The Defense Ministry and the Police Ministry have the responsibility of executing this decree with respect to all persons who do not belong to the armed forces in standing status, or to the police forces in active status, but who reside in the jurisdiction of the defense or police organizations; the collected data accompanied by registration forms must be sent to the census committees at district, city, and provincial levels to be combined with data on permanent residents in the regions.

Throughout the census operation, all organs and all administrative levels must not contradict the principles set forth in this decree and must not alter, augment or reduce the items in the registration form.

In the localities where special situations necessitate certain changes or addendum to this decree, reports about such contingencies must be made to the Central Statistics Board, and execution can be possible only upon approval of the latter.

Article 12. The central statistics board has the responsibility of explaining and guiding the execution of this decree in the entire North Vietnam.



## II. EXPLANATIONS ON CENSUS OPERATIONS

Nhan Dan  
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No 2134, 20 January 1960, Hanoi  
Pages 1 and 6  
Vietnamese, np

Nguyen Khang

### A. Objective and Meaning of Population Census

Since the re-establishment of peace, the public administration function and the revolutionization of our national economy have continuously required basic statistical data on the population of North Vietnam.

Such data the French colonialists did not produce. Throughout the 15 years of war and especially during the 5 years of peace and economic and cultural developments, the population situation in the North of our country have undergone many changes. In recent years, due to administrative requirements, a number of police services, transportation services and security services have initiated population registration. The data accumulated by those services answer a definite purpose but lack accuracy and completeness. At present we need basic data on the population situation, such as the total number of people classified according to sex, race, ranges of age, levels of education, and professional capabilities in different national industries. No organ or region can as yet provide such data accurately and completely.

As a result, the Government council has decided in a conference held on 24 September 1959, to accelerate the population census operation in all of North Vietnam to draw up basic and reliable data on the population situation. The findings will satisfy the public administration prerequisites, facilitate the planning for economic, cultural, and educational developments, and form the basis of the congressional election in the first 6 months of 1960/

Population census data also help the government and the Party to control the implementation of a number of policies, such as equalization of rights between different sexes, races, eradication of illiteracy, preservation of health, and full employment of all peoples. At the same time, by arriving at each individual house to take census we can evaluate more realistically the standard of living of our people.

We should conceive clearly the meaning and purpose of the population census; we should also recognize fully its complexities and difficulties. Since the population situation is not static, the census operation must be effectuated in a short and uniform period of time throughout all North Vietnam. It goes without saying that the task demands an effective organization, a large force of supervizing cadres, and a vast amount of money. Census taking will involve every citizen and for that matter, public opinion may reveal unexpected reactions. On the other hand, the enemy may try to distort, and sabotage the mission. Consequently, we must regard the population census operation as a large-scale political movement; we must emphasize propaganda and enlightenment, so that everybody understands his responsibility, supports the mission, and thwarts any enemy distortion and sabotage schemes.

Considering the importance and large scale of the population census mission, the executive conference of the Government council has decided to give priority to its realization under the leadership of all administrative committees within a determined period. We must correct such wrong views and attitudes as the unconcern over taking population census, the idea that data can be gathered without embarking on an actual operation, the belief that taking a population census is a simple administrative job, etc. We must recognize the importance of our mission to reinforce leadership, concentrate energy, and ensure a successful accomplishment.

#### B. Scope of the Census Operation

The census encompasses all Vietnamese living in the territory of North Vietnam, and all foreigners permanently residing therein.

The armed forces and the police service will be censused by the Defense Ministry and the Police Ministry, respectively.

Foreign diplomatic personnel, aliens belonging to organizations other than diplomatic missions, technicians of friendly nations, Vietnamese residing abroad, and Vietnamese in diplomatic missions overseas will be registered according to a special plan to be carried out by responsible agencies.

#### C. Persons to be Censused

All persons with the status of "permanent residents" will be registered throughout North Vietnam. A "permanent resident" is defined as a person having a fixed and permanent residence. Each person can register himself at only one locality. (See details in the Decree on Census).

#### D. Elements in the Census Operation

1. The elements in the census operation include the following principle schedules:

- (1) Total population
- (2) Population distribution according to regions
- (3) Population distribution according to rural and urban areas
- (4) Population distribution according to sex
- (5) Population distribution according to race
- (6) Population distribution according to age
- (7) Population distribution according to education levels
- (8) Labor force in different national industries.

2. To set up the above schedules, the following items must be recorded:

- (1) Name
- (2) Relation with the household chief
- (3) Sex
- (4) Race
- (5) Age
- (6) Level of education
- (7) Occupation

3. Meaning and utility of each schedule

(1) Total population

To know the total population of North Vietnam is necessary for public administration and public planning. Total population is the most important schedule in the census, which necessitates the highest degree of accuracy.

(2) Population distribution according to regions

The data on permanent residents distributed according to regions form the foundation of all public policies and plans relating to the life of all peoples in each region. We can cite for examples the production plan, housing plan, transportation plan, commerce plan, school plan, hospital plan, etc. The same data can be used to calculate the population density of each region.

(3) Population distribution according to urban and rural areas

The classification of inhabitants according to rural and urban areas has an important significance. It reveals the rate of economic development and the level of industrial development in a given country.

For the more the economy is developed, the higher is the industrial level, and the higher the industrial level, the more the urban population will increase.

Based on the population distribution between rural and urban areas we can study different measures and plans for the cities and the country. Since the economic conditions and the economic life of urban and rural areas are not the same, the consumption requirement and public services are bound to be different in each place.

#### (4) Population distribution according to sex

This schedule is simple but essential for the studies in the fields of politics, economics, culture and sociology. Combined with the age distribution schedule it will represent the population evolution; coordinated with the education levels schedule it will reflect the levels of education of each sex; again, a combination of the female population schedule with data on occupation distribution will reveal the participation of women in different branches of the national industry. Finally, the establishment of these schedules will enable us to implement the policy of sex equality.

#### (5) Population distribution according to race

This schedule has a profound political significance. It discloses the ethnic make-up of our population. In combining this schedule with others such as that of education and of each ethnic group in our country, and reappraise the existing racial policies. The race distribution schedule can also be arranged with the age and sex schedules to discover the evolution of each ethnic group.

#### (6) Population distribution according to age

Without this schedule it would be impossible to devise economic, political, cultural and social policies; it would be difficult to channel the labor force into various economic branches, to mobilize manpower, to organize elections of congress and people's councils, to build schools and train leaders, etc. The classification of population into ranges of age has a great advantage. Such ranges will be set up according to the requirements of statistical study. For example, range 1-7 is applied in formulating plans for the development of nurseries and kindergartens; range 7-17 is used to study the propagation of secondary education; range 18 and above is set up to determine the number of voters. Ranges 16-55 for the male sex and 16-50 for the female sex form the basis for the employment of manpower.

Separately considered, the age schedule leads to the above results: Combined with others such as the schedules of sex, race, education, and occupation, it enables us to study more important problems of different orders.

(7) Population distribution according to education levels

This schedule aims at determining the number of illiterate and literate people, and the education levels of each sex, and each ethnic group; it also creates the groundwork for further plans to raise the education standard.

(8) Labor force distribution in various economic branches

These data have an important economic implication. They denote the situation of our national economy, facilitate our studying manpower distribution in various professions, in different economic branches, and in the production as well as non-production fields; they help us in verifying the number of unemployed and employed, in devising plans to train cadres and workers, and in organizing and employing the labor force more rationally.

E. Starting Time

The uniform starting time for the population census operation in North Vietnam is set at zero hour of 1 March, 1960, or zero hour of 4 February of the year Canh-ty (lunar calendar).

The starting time is an established time used as a common point of departure for all of North Vietnam to take the population census concurrently so that any overlapping and oversight can be avoided.

### III. EDITORIAL ON CENSUS

Nhan Dan

/The People/

No 2134, 20 January 1960, Hanoi

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article

In the mission of promoting socialism, the people are the most decisive force. The greatest advantage of socialism is an economy built on a determined plan. If a plan is to be accomplished successfully, all forces must be marshalled and the primacy of a popular force must be established.

At the present time, the Party and the Government, need basic data on the population situation to establish the groundwork for further studies, census policies, and for the formulation of economic and cultural development plans. Our First Five-Year Plan (1961-1965) must be based on manpower, factors of production, and requirements for raising the people's living standard to set forth objectives and expenditures.

For the above purpose, the Central Party Committee and the Government have decided on taking a census in North Vietnam to draw up basic data on the population situation. The purpose of the census is to provide precise information on the population of each region and the total population of North Vietnam, including the number of males and females and their ages, percentage of various ethnic groups, and the education levels and occupations. These census data will reflect basic changes in the life of all Northerners after the victories of popular, democratic revolution, and the victories achieved during the advance and consolidation of socialism. They will be useful in drafting plans for the propagation of education among the people; they will form the basis for the calculation of all important expenditures, such as expenditures on consumer and capital goods production in the five-year plan, expenditures on cultural and economic developments, and expenditures on the amelioration of our way of life.

The data we gathered from the establishment of voter lists, agricultural tax records and civil-status registers are too rudimentary to meet the requirements of government planning. For that reason, only a population census methodically carried out on schedule, in accordance with planning objectives and requirements, could provide accurate and sufficient data.

In view of the importance of this mission, the Central Party Committee and the Government, notwithstanding other heavy tasks, have decided to proceed on taking the population census and considered the undertaking as one of the urgent and vital missions which necessitates for its accomplishment the concentration of efforts.

The key factors in population census taking are accuracy and speedy completion in a given period of time. The census mission is difficult and complex to the extent that the Party, the governmental organs, the unions, and the entire people must coordinate their efforts to fulfill it. The Central Party Committee instructions on this subject have emphasized the following point: "Because of the importance and wide scope of the census, all cadres must galvanize the people into realizing the program fruitfully within a determined period. During that period, the population census mission is to be considered the central mission in the whole North Vietnam."

Since the mission pertains to the entire party and the entire people, the party cadres at all levels must understand clearly its objectives and requirements; they must use propaganda and explanations intensively, mobilize popular participation, and effectively control the deployed efforts.

#### IV. PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S SPEECH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CENSUS

Nhan Dan

/The People/

No 2135, 21 January 1960, Hanoi

Pages 1 and 6

Vietnamese, np

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Recently, the Central Party committee held a conference to discuss the population census mission. The representatives of all provinces and cities in all of North Vietnam, together with the members of the Central organs, attended it.

During the conference session, Premier Pham van Dong made two visits and addressed the representatives on behalf of the Central Party Committee. He dwelled on the following points:

The Central Party Committee and the government regard the population census operation as a very important mission we must accomplish successfully in a short period of time.

The public administration function and the revolutionizing of our national economy require accurate statistical data on the population situation of all North Vietnam. This is a vast political problem for our nation and our people. The democratic republic government must command the national situation in all social and economic aspects to administer national construction systematically. At the present time we are conducting researches, investigations, studies, and surveys, of which the population census is the most important and urgent project.

The responsible government and party organs, the central services, and the organizations in regions, provinces, districts, and villages must consider the census operation as their own mission and must achieve it in a determined period. The ministries, provinces, districts and villages must control rigorously the population situation in their jurisdiction, for that is the prerequisite to pursue other objectives.

In order to achieve success, the population census operation must be well organized and methodically planned. We must concentrate our efforts, mobilize our cadres, coordinate our leadership, make careful preparations, and urgently proceed in planned phases, bearing always in mind that the result must be positive and valid and that any oversight and overlapping must be avoided.



Premier Phan van Dong emphasized particularly the important significance of propaganda which can appeal to all citizens to participate in the census mission. He said: "To make everybody understand the project correctly is a task which has a decisive effect on the results of the operation itself. We must use simple explanations to instill in the masses the fact that the population census is a right and necessary undertaking, a responsibility to all people. Such explanation will cause every citizen to recognize his mission, and to participate in the census operation with self-encouragement and a sense of fulfillment. That is the important factor deciding the success of census taking, for when the people understand and support the mission, it is sure to be accomplished. If this course of action is not followed, obstacles will arise.

Use propaganda and reasoning to make the people conceive clearly their responsibility in contributing to public administration and to the advance of democracy through which their political life will be improved."

The Premier also stressed another point, namely, the training of our cadres in all methods of direct census taking.

With a clear conception of the importance of the population census mission, with the direct and efficient leadership of responsible organs, and with the active participation of all citizens, we pledge ourselves to completing effectively the census operation in the coming months.

Also, recently the Central Party Committee held a second conference to re-examine the multifarious preparations.

Comrade Nguyen duy Trinh, member of the Central Party Committee, reminded all Party representatives to intensify democratic and popular discussions to reaffirm the importance of the population census mission. The Party representatives at all levels must solve the difficulties encountered in the coordination of our efforts, and in the centralization of command to bring about the success of the population census operation.

V. LET US STRUGGLE FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE CENSUS  
OPERATION

Nhan Dan

/The People/

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Hanoi

Vietnamese, np

Chairman, Central Census  
Supervisory and Control  
Commission

A. Fundamental Concepts About the Population Problem

The objective of a population census operation is to study the evolution of population in terms of geographic distribution and composition. The population theory of the reactionary capitalists in the world negates the historical elements embodied in the principles of demography, and affirms that the cause of demographic changes does not reside in the production and distribution of material goods among human beings. They hold that the rate of population growth is always faster than the rate of economic production and, for that reason, material goods are limited, unable to ensure the satisfaction of human wants. They draw from such theory the conclusions that poverty, famine, diseases, short life span, and wars are essential, natural and eternal phenomena, the existence of which alongside the population increase is to adjust the number of people to material production.

The rich and the rulers are not responsible for this contingency; it is the poor who are liable for failing to restrict marriages and births (the Malthusian theory of overpopulation). The said concepts aim at concealing the real causes of the demographic phenomena such as poverty, short life span, and unemployment, which originate from the masses being ruthlessly exploited; they deny at the same time the positive role of labor in the exploration of and struggle against nature to constantly increase production. These concepts also create the basis for the capitalists' advocacy of war as a means to combat the so-called over population danger. Marx and Engels had condemned the theory of over population which is reactionary, despicable and destructive to mankind. Engels said: "The material production of mankind is boundless, the productivity of natural resources is also boundless if we invest more capital and apply more scientific methods."

To better understand the problem, let us look at the population situation and the economic production in a number of countries. In Soviet Russia, from 1913 to 1958, the population increased 1.3 times while the gross national product increased twenty-two times. In the

United States, from 1870 to 1950, the population increased 3.8 times and wheat production increased 4.4 times, despite the fact that farming acreage had been reduced.

The above realities prove that the concept of population growth being faster than economic production is unfounded.

The Marxist Leninist theory of population is the scientific foundation for a population census in all socialist countries. Marx and Lenin maintain that mankind is a composed population living in a definite pattern of material production. Consequently, the characteristics as well as the evolutions of all demographic phenomena will differ from society to society according to different production processes. In other words, population is a social phenomenon reflecting a definite production pattern. Poverty, diseases, and a short life span are the attributes of the production process in the capitalist imperialist system, and not the natural consequences of production itself. In comparing the socialist and capitalist production processes we arrive at these facts:

Under the capitalist system, the exploiting class holds the material means of production. It uses exploitation and wars to consolidate and expand capitalism; it drives the labor force into poverty and misery; and it augments unemployment and increases the number of deaths at an early age. The mortality rate, for that reason, is inflated and life expectancy is reduced.

On the contrary, in the socialist system, the material means of production belong to the public; the objective of production is to satisfy the material and spiritual wants of all people according to the growing rate of output and the advance of technology. The principles of demography in the socialist system are full employment, constant improvement of living standards, and hence, a longer average life span, and rapid population growth owing to the high birth rate.

In 1913, the death rate in capitalist countries was much lower than in Czarist Russia. Today the contrary is the case; the death rate in those countries is considerably higher than in the Soviet Union.

Following are certain figures used for comparison purpose:

	<u>NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 1000 PERSONS</u>		
	<u>1918</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1958</u>
The Soviet Union	30.2	18.3	7.5
The United States	13.2	10.8	9.5
Britain	14.3	14.4	11.7
France	17.7	18.9	11.1
West Germany	15	14.4	10.8
Italy	18.7	13.6	10

According to statistical data published in recent years by colonialists in certain southeast asian countries still living under a colonial regime, or under the capitalist imperialist system, the average rate of population increase per annum is from 12 to 17 persons per thousand. The data of the authority in South Vietnam reveal a yearly increase of 15 persons per thousand. Meanwhile in the North, the data made available by the Central Statistics Board in 1957 showed a per annum population increase of 34.5 persons per thousand; that rate was calculated after three years of complete success in economic reconstruction and in the promotion of socialism. The population growth in North Vietnam in recent years and in the years to come demonstrates the inherent outcome of the excellent socialist production process.

The demographic principles expounded by the capitalist imperialist production system such as the inevitability of poverty, diseases, and short life span, will be banned from our North Vietnam in the near future.

B. Objective, Significance and Importance of the Population Census Operation with Regard to the Mission of Constructing and Consolidating Our North Vietnam

Since our basic demographic concepts differ from that of the capitalist imperialists, our objective in launching a population census operation also differs from theirs. Their goal in taking a census is to help the ruling class increase exploitation. On the other hand, under our regime, human life is considered the most precious capital, government interests coincide with popular interests, and therefore, our population census mission originates from the requirements of an efficient public administration and from the most fundamental and commanding goal of our system, which is happiness for all.

The public administration function which encompasses all political, social, and cultural aspects of the socialist countries in general, and of the regions in an individual socialist country in particular, requires that accurate statistical data on the population situations must form the foundation of all policies, and that all economic and cultural plans be designed to raise the living standard of the people. After a victorious revolution, the economic principles of socialism call for a planned economy with a rational employment of manpower, capital, and resources, of which manpower is the most important element. The past population census operations of friendly nations and our present one have no other purpose than the promotion of socialism and the establishment of a planned economy according to socialist principles. This is an objective prerequisite for all socialist countries. The Soviet Union, the first nation to build socialism, had taken a

population census immediately after its victorious revolution, with the initiative and support of Lenin, in spite of raging civil war and the occupation of a part of Russian territory by imperialist interventionists. By 1920, in realizing the population census project, Lenin considered it the most important undertaking in the national reconstruction program and emphasized that "the population census mission does not pertain to any single organ; it pertains to all people, to all Soviet organs." Later on the Soviet Union took a population census in 1926, in 1939, and at the beginning of the year 1959. China also embarked on the task in 1953 to prepare for the First Five-Year Plan.

Since the re-establishment of peace, our North Vietnam has been progressing on the road to socialism. We had completed the plan of economic recovery and are endeavoring earnestly to fulfill the three-year plan. In applying the socialist economic system, we must create with determination favorable conditions for fundamental concepts of socialism to develop and establish themselves. And the only way to do so is to systematize our economy. The 14th resolution of the Central Party executive conference has stated that "while we fulfill the three-year plan." At present we are beginning to make preparations for the five-year plan and to undertake a number of important tasks. All steps demand reliable statistical data on population, data that include the population of each region, total population of North Vietnam, population of each region, total population of North Vietnam, population distribution in terms of sex, ranges of age, ethnic ties, occupations in various branches of the national economy, etc. Without these data it would be impossible for us to formulate general plans for the entire North Vietnam and individual plans for each region and for each branch of the economy. For example, if we want to draft a production expansion plan, we must have statistical data on manpower and occupations. If we want to develop industries, we must have data on the labor force, the number of technicians, and the number of persons who do not have adequate jobs yet.

Census data are indispensable for individual branches of industry or commerce in computing the volume of goods to be produced and distributed, and in widening the socialist trade network to satisfy the over-increasing popular demand. Likewise, those data will help us, devise plans for agricultural production, make provisions for a definite total output of rice, sugar, cloth, and meat, and for increasing farm products. As to the problems of culture, education and health, the data on population distribution according to sex, age and levels of education will facilitate our job of determining the number of public servants, the number of students increased yearly, the quantity of medicine to produce, the number of medical centers, maternity hospitals, and hospital beds to build the volume of newspapers and films to produce, etc. In addition, the same data will help the Central Committee, the Party representatives at all levels, and the regional

administrations to exercise a more embracing and effective control through which major policies, such as the equalization of rights among sexes, races, and the improvement of national material and spiritual life can be studied and realized. In the years that follow, the statistical branch will use the data gathered in this census operation to calculate the rate of annual population growth.

In the foregoing we have seen that population census data are indispensable for the mission of constructing and consolidating North Vietnam, as required in the establishment of the First Five-Year Plan, and the development of a socialist economy, which is essential for public administration and for promoting happiness and raising the living standard of the people. The French colonialists left almost no statistics on population, or if they left any at all, the data must have become anachronistic in view of the overall development of our country after nine years of patriotic war and five years of peace and recovery.

Though the data accumulated by our constant census mission -- such as the data on people; in civil-status registration, in agricultural tax records, and in the elections of Administrative committees -- have helped us in controlling the general population situation to set up the three-year plan, they are still inadequate due to the diversity of collecting methods, timing, and purposes for which they are drawn up, and thus, cannot achieve accuracy to meet the requirements of long-range planning. Moreover, population always undergoes changes in number, in character, and in composition, and varies in a complex pattern. According to statistics in 1957, there was in North Vietnam a birth every 48 seconds, a death every 3 minutes, and an average increase of one person every 65 seconds.

The vital statistics bureau of Hanoi discovered that there are every day 1,000 people residing temporarily in the city. In recent years, our socialist commerce and industry have developed to the extent that great changes have been inaugurated in employment and in population distribution between rural and urban areas. A number of persons who used to be agricultural workers, handicraftsmen, or unemployed, have become industrial workers. In the same way, a number of people who were either poor, unemployed, or in small retail business in cities have flocked to the country to become farmers. Other successes in the fields of culture, education and health have also uplifted the material and spiritual life, reduced the number of illiterate and sick peoples, mitigated the loss to the labor force, increased the birth rate, diminished the death rate, and induced population changes that are far-reaching when compared with the situation in the war episode or prior to the revolution.

Because we must have fundamental and accurate data on the population situation to improve public administration and to set up the five-year plan, the Central Party Committee and the Government have decided to mobilize a great number of cadres and to spend a large amount of money in order to proceed with the task of taking the population census in all North Vietnam in 1960. There has been assigned to the operation (which must be carried out in the determined period from 15 February to 7 March 1960) the priority of a central mission over other no less important tasks such as the expansion of agricultural, industrial production, the preparation for the coming Party conferences at all levels, etc.)

All Party representatives and Administrative committees must centralize leadership to complete the population census operation fruitfully, methodically, rapidly, and accurately within the planned period.

### C. Nature and Characteristics of a Population Census Operation

#### 1. Population census is a vast political movement

We cannot maintain the idea that the population census is a simple statistical job and that data can be provided by the existing statistical machinery and the present administrative organs. In reality, taking a population census is a vast political movement involving the entire people and depending on the people for its success. The masses will earnestly participate in the census operation and support it only when they have understood properly its objective and significance. We must convey to the people this fact: The Party and the Government must harness the potentialities and the immense capacities of the people in order to govern; on his part, each citizen has the duty to inform the government of his own situation and the situation of his family. Only when the people understand this fact and their duties do they make correct census reports of their own will and only then are the collected data reliable.

Through the two tests given in Hai-duong and Lao-kai, we realize that no matter how difficult and complex the population census problem is, and no matter how hasty the preparations are, instructions and explanations can ultimately dispel irks, worries, and lead to popular understanding and support. Now we are widening the census zone to embrace all North Vietnam. To the people and cadres, census taking is a very new task. In the process, cadres might be subjective and look upon the mission with a nonchalant concern, whereas public thinking might become rather complicated. The traitorous elements might exploit such a situation to spread counter-propaganda ideas and to sow suspicion and confusion among the people. We must base ourselves on



the noble foundation and democratic nature of our regime and on the harmony between popular and governmental interests to make everybody understand the important objective and significance of the population census operation.

Propaganda and indoctrination are decisive factors in the success of our mission. Consequently we must use them both, widely and effectively in every phase, from the preparatory steps to the final revision.

## 2. Population census is a new, complex and difficult mission

This is the first time we have taken a population census in all of North Vietnam. In general, our people and cadres do not have experience. At the same time, each district, each province, and each region has its special characteristics and its different parts comprising different ethnic groups with different languages, customs, education levels, political and economic activities.

In addition, the population situation is not static. Deaths, births, displacements, and changes of occupation occur constantly in diversified circumstances. Then come the distinction between different categories of persons to be censused; the establishment of schedules; the classification of occupation, education levels, and age; and the plans of preparation, execution, revision, and recapitulation; all of which tend to multiply difficulties.

Even after these considerations, the census plan cannot be said to have included all special and concrete circumstances of the regions.

For that reason, we must not indulge ourselves in subjectivity and unconcern; we must, on the contrary, heighten the sense of responsibility, overcome difficulties, and command and supervise strictly so as to bring the population census mission to a fruitful end.

## 3. Population census requires effective organization, accurate data, and completion in a uniform and short time.

Population census taking is a new and complex mission. Nevertheless, by virtue of its importance and significance, the Central Committee Party has insisted on the most accurate execution. We must draw from this the conclusion that the accuracy of census data is closely related to the accuracy of the five-year plan. Each party member and each leader must have an identical view in order to elevate the sense of responsibility.



And since the mission is complex and the population situation dynamic, the actual operation must be carried out according to a plan carefully formulated and completed in an established period. If the operating methods and the official plan are not respected and if uniformity of action is not maintained, the data collected will not have the degree of accuracy required.

The separate schedules also have a close relationship with one another; a schedule incorrectly mapped out will impair the quality of all census data.

#### 4. Preparations must be elaborate and accelerated in the regions

Through the two tests given in Hai-duong and Lao-kai, we have acquired a number of experiences and deduced the criteria for an execution plan. A number of technicians and leaders in these two provinces have also been improved. At present, insofar as organization is concerned, the Party representatives at all levels and the regional authorities have been solidified, and the census apparatus has been formed and is making preparations for the operation phase. These are great advantages for us in fulfilling the mission assigned by the Party and the Government.

Preparations are very important. Adequate preparations will ensure half of the success envisaged. Conceiving that idea, the regions have created census organs, delimited populated areas, compiled household lists, determined plans to channel cadres to hamlets, villages, city zones, working areas, industrial establishments, etc. There are, however, a number of places where the leaders in charge have not paid enough attention to the census operation and, for that reason, preparations are tardy and inadequate. Those leaders have not yet understood completely the importance of a population census which is indispensable not only to the national public administration function, but also to the regional revolutionary mission.

The census period is about to begin. All regions should expedite the preparations so that on March first the actual operation could be started systematically, without overlapping and oversight.

Population census taking is closely related to other important missions of the Party and government, and to the promotion of popular happiness. It is a new task executed on a large scale, according to scientific methods, along complicated patterns, in a race against time, and with a required high degree of accuracy. Consequently, it demands that in the course of accomplishment, the party representatives, the administrative authorities, and the census taking organizations be strengthened with determination; that all cadres must display a sense of organization, a sense of responsibility and that everyone must pledge his support and join in participation to ensure complete success.

## VI. SPECIAL ASPECTS OF CENSUS OPERATION

Tien Phong  
/The Leader/

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Unsigned Article

To accomplish successfully the forthcoming population census mission, we, the young people, should understand keenly its meaning, objective, and scope before starting the actual operation.

In the following article we present certain fundamental aspects of that mission to help you study and understand it.

Why do we have to take a population census?

Considering the improvement of our living standard as a constant objective, the Party and the government have striven ceaselessly to develop a planned economy and education. At the present time we are struggling to complete the government's three-year plan and preparing for the first five-year plan. To make the long-range plan productive we must keep in systematic control the over-all situation of the nation in which population is an extremely important factor.

In the past we have drawn up substantial data on the population situation through civil-status registers, agricultural tax records, voter lists, name lists used in the distribution of rice, cloth, etc. However, due to the simplified collecting methods and the unscientific operating procedures, these data have not reached the degree of accuracy required. The lack of accurate statistical data raised many difficulties in planning, especially in the formulation of long-range projects such as the forthcoming five-year plan. For that reason, the Party and the Government have decided this time to take a population census in the entire North Vietnam with uniform requirements, scope, methods and time.

What is the objective of our population census mission?

Contrary to the population censuses conducted by former imperialist colonialists, which aimed at obtaining means to increase exploitation, to draft our people into coolie service and military service, and to collect higher taxes, our objective in taking a population census is to sustain the interests of the people and to advance the cause of socialism. Many plans, policies, and projects have been contemplated by the Party and the Government for the same purpose. In realizing the established plans and harmonizing what has been contemplated with popular

aspirations, realities, and capacities of different regions in different circumstances, the government must have accurate statistical data on the population situation. For example, if we want to set up a plan to develop agriculture or industry, we must know the exact population of each region and the total population of the country. Only such knowledge could help us calculate correctly the total volume of foodstuffs, the aggregate quantities of consumer goods to be produced and distributed, the number of industrial plants to be built, and the labor force to be mustered and rationally employed. The educational and cultural organizations, too, must grasp the population situation to be able to establish plans for elevating education standards and developing arts and health services, according to popular demands. Population census data also enable the Party and the government to study concrete measures to realize the policies of sex equality, race equality, etc.

#### Scope of population census

In the census operation, our people will report their names, relation with household chiefs, sex, race, age, education levels, and occupations. With these items we can set up eight schedules described below:

Total population

Population distribution according to regions

Population distribution according to rural and urban areas

Population distribution according to sex

Population distribution according to race

Population distribution according to age

Population distribution according to education levels

Labor forces in different branches of the national economy

These items and schedules have a close relationship with one another and are related to the public administration function, and to the policies destined to raise the living standard of the people.

#### Examples:

Items "name" and "relation with the household chief" are used to determine total population, avoid any oversight and overlapping, and to ensure accuracy of data.

Item "sex" is simple but very important in the study of political, economic, cultural, and social problems. We combine it with the item "age" to calculate population growth in the entire country and in each ethnic group; with item "occupation" to study the participation of women in various branches of the national economy; and with item "education" to assess the education level of each sex. Finally, it can be projected into the policy of sex equality.

Item "race" has an important political connotation. It is related to other items, useful in studying the economic and cultural development of each ethnic group; it also facilitates the adoption of such policies as race equality and race mutual support.

Item "age" is the most important of all. Without it we cannot frame economic, political, cultural, or defense policies, or make plans for a rational distribution of the labor force in different economic branches, or establish programs for the training of cadres and workers. Nor without it could we have programs for military service, for the election of administrative committees, for education and propagation, or for the construction of kindergarten and nursery schools.

Item "education level" helps us determine the number of literate and illiterate people, and the levels of education of different groups. It is used as a basis to devise plans for illiteracy eradication and education propagation.

Item "occupation" gives us an idea about the distribution of labor in various economic branches. It leads to planning for a more rational employment of manpower, and to training, and redistributing cadres and workers.

Population census taking is a very important mission. It is also a task confronted with many difficulties of which we have cited a few in the foregoing.

To accomplish this mission we must study the instructions so as to have a clear concept of its objective, scope, meaning, and a thorough knowledge of the operating procedures. It is by conceiving the mission adequately that we can fulfill it and muster the people to participate in it.